

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) In a time division multiple access (TDMA) system, a method comprising the steps:
 - at a subscriber:
 - listening to an assigned channel and an alternate channel;
 - performing the step of listening to the alternate channel until a location of reverse channel signaling is determined for the assigned channel;
 - obtaining a fixed periodic rate for reverse channel signaling;
 - transmitting information on the assigned channel; and
 - based on the fixed periodic rate, selectively listening to the alternate channel to receive reverse channel signaling.
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of obtaining comprises retrieving the fixed periodic rate from memory, wherein the fixed periodic rate is programmed into memory *a priori*.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising
at a base repeater:
selecting a fixed periodic rate for reverse channel signaling;
receiving a burst, wherein the burst belongs to a superframe, and the superframe
comprises a plurality of bursts;
determining that at least one burst in the superframe will collide with reverse
channel signaling;
buffering the received burst; and
transmitting the buffered burst at a subsequent time.
6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the burst is a voice burst.
7. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the burst is a data burst.
8. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of selecting is performed
dynamically.
9. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of selecting comprises
retrieving the fixed periodic rate from memory, and wherein the fixed periodic rate is
programmed into memory *a priori*.
10. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of transmitting comprises
delaying the buffered burst by one frame.

11. (currently amended) In a time division multiple access (TDMA) system, a method comprising the steps:

selecting a fixed periodic rate for reverse channel signaling for a first channel; and
transmitting reverse channel signaling at the fixed periodic rate to a transmitting subscriber assigned to the first channel,

wherein the TDMA system comprises an aligned slotting structure, and the reverse channel signaling is transmitted in a shared signaling field on a second channel on an outbound path while the second channel supports a first call and the first channel supports a second call.

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the shared signaling field carries one of reverse channel signaling, synchronization and embedded signaling.